

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An athletic shoe comprising:

a bottom component having a top surface and a bottom surface, the bottom component including a sole having an upper surface and a lower surface;

an upper component extending from the top surface of the bottom component for accommodating a foot therein, the upper component having a medial sidewall, a lateral sidewall, and a back portion between the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall; and

two elongate straps, one end of each of the two elongate straps being intimately secured to an inner surface of the shoe, the two elongate straps ~~capable of supporting~~ contact a foot within the shoe, the two elongate straps support the ankle mortise and support the lateral calcaneofibular and anterior talofibular ligaments of a foot within the shoe such that a first strap of the two elongate straps cross approximately perpendicular to the anterior talofibular ligament and a second strap of the two elongate straps

extends approximately parallel to the calcaneofibular ligament and extend across the anterior talofibular ligament, the two elongate straps each having a free end which is detachably securable to each other and an outer surface of the shoe and being tightenable to reduce or prevent ankle inversion stresses of a foot within the shoe.

Claim 2. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An athletic shoe ~~of claim 1~~ comprising:

a bottom component having a top surface and a bottom surface, the bottom component including a sole having an upper surface and a lower surface;

an upper component extending from the top surface of the bottom component for accommodating a foot therein, the upper component having a medial sidewall, a lateral sidewall, a back portion between the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall; and

two elongate straps, one end of each of the two elongate straps being intimately secured to an inner surface of the shoe, the two elongate straps capable of supporting the ankle mortise and lateral ligaments of a foot within the shoe, the two elongate

straps each having a free end which is detachably securable to each other and an outer surface of the shoe and being tightenable to reduce or prevent ankle inversion stresses of a foot within the shoe,

wherein the two elongate straps comprise a first elongate strap and a second elongate strap, the first elongate strap being secured at an end portion thereof at a junction of the sole and the medial sidewall, the first elongate strap extending inside the shoe across the upper surface of the sole in a region where the mid arch of a foot within the shoe would be located, and extending horizontally for disposition on the top of a foot within the shoe, the first elongate strap exiting the shoe through the lateral sidewall adjacent to the upper surface of the sole for extending across a top surface of the shoe and passing through a first fastening device disposed on an outer surface of the shoe and adjacent to the top of the medial sidewall, the first elongate strap having a first attachment component on a free end thereof; and

the second elongate strap being secured at an end portion thereof at the lateral sidewall of the shoe in a region where the

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level of the base of the 5th metatarsal of a foot within the shoe would be located, the second elongate strap extending across the back portion of the shoe adjacent to the top of the upper component, and running parallel to the sole in the medial sidewall before exiting the medial sidewall, and extending horizontally within a tongue in an upper surface of the upper component, the second elongate strap extending across the ankle of a foot within the shoe, the second elongate strap exiting the shoe through the lateral sidewall adjacent to the upper surface of the sole and passing through a second fastening device disposed posterior to the first fastening device, the second elongate strap having a second attachment component on a free end thereof for engagement with the first attachment component of the first elongate strap.

Claim 3. (currently amended) ~~The An~~ athletic shoe ~~of claim 1~~
comprising:

a bottom component having a top surface and a bottom surface,
the bottom component including a sole having an upper surface and
a lower surface;

an upper component extending from the top surface of the bottom component for accommodating a foot therein, the upper component having a medial sidewall, a lateral sidewall, a back portion between the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall; and two elongate straps, one end of each of the two elongate straps being intimately secured to an inner surface of the shoe, the two elongate straps capable of supporting the ankle mortise and lateral ligaments of a foot within the shoe, the two elongate straps each having a free end which is detachably securable to each other and an outer surface of the shoe and being tightenable to reduce or prevent ankle inversion stresses of a foot within the shoe,

wherein the two elongate straps comprise a first elongate strap and a second elongate strap, the first elongate strap being secured at an end portion thereof at a junction of the sole and the medial sidewall, the first elongate strap extending inside the shoe across the upper surface of the sole in a region where the mid arch of a foot within the shoe would be located, and extending horizontally for disposition on the top of a foot within the shoe, the first elongate strap exiting the shoe through a first slit in

the lateral sidewall adjacent to the upper surface of the sole, the first elongate strap then extending across the top of the shoe, passing through a first fastening device on an outer surface of the shoe and adjacent to the top of the medial sidewall, the first elongate strap having a first releasable attachment component being disposed on an inner surface thereof and adjacent to a free end of the first elongate strap; and

b the second elongate strap being secured within a channel in the lateral sidewall of the shoe in a region where the level of the base of the 5th metatarsal of a foot within the shoe would be located, the second elongate strap extending across the back portion of the shoe adjacent to the top of the upper component, and running parallel to the sole in the medial sidewall before exiting the medial sidewall, and extending horizontally within a channel within a tongue in an upper surface of the upper component, the second elongate strap extending across an ankle of a foot within the shoe and exiting the shoe through a second slit on the lateral sidewall adjacent to the upper surface of the sole, the second elongate strap passing through a second fastening device disposed posterior to the first fastening device, the second elongate strap

having a second releasable attachment component on an inner surface of a free end thereof for engagement with the first releasable attachment component of the first elongate strap.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The athletic shoe of claim 3, wherein the first releasable attachment component and the second releasable attachment component comprise a ~~VELCRO material~~ material which comprises complementary male and female forms which adhere to one another when pressed together and are separated by being pulled apart.

Claim 5. (original) The athletic shoe of claim 3, wherein at least one of the first fastening device and the second fastening device is a buckle.

Claim 6. (original) The athletic shoe of claim 3, wherein the first elongate strap is $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide.

Claim 7. (original) The athletic shoe of claim 3, wherein the first elongate strap is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide.

Claim 8. (original) The athletic shoe of claim 3, wherein the second elongate strap is $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and is 9 to 11 inches long.

Claim 9. (original) The athletic shoe of claim 8, wherein the second elongate strap is made of a material selected from the group consisting of nylon, rubber and a latex material.

Claim 10. (withdrawn) The athletic shoe of claim 3, further comprising at least two lateral support bumpers disposed integrally with the shoe and on an outer surface of the lateral sidewall, the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the sole above the bottom surface of the bottom component, and one of the lateral support bumpers being disposed in a region where the head of the 5th metatarsal of a foot within the shoe would be located, and a second of the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the anterior heel, the lateral support bumpers each having a base portion which projects laterally outward from the shoe at a distance of approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Claim 11. (withdrawn) The athletic shoe of claim 3, wherein each of the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall has a sufficiently stiff consistency to reduce or prevent acute angles that form during inversion stresses to a foot within the shoe.

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b **Claim 12. (original)** The athletic shoe of claim 10, wherein each of the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall has a sufficiently stiff consistency to reduce or prevent acute angles that form during inversion stresses to a foot within the shoe.

Claim 13. (withdrawn) An athletic shoe comprising:
a bottom component having a top surface and a bottom surface,
the bottom component including a sole having an upper surface and
a lower surface;

an upper component extending from the top surface of the
bottom component for accommodating a foot therein, the upper
component having a medial sidewall, a lateral sidewall, a back
portion between the medial sidewall and the lateral at sidewall,
and

at least two lateral support bumpers disposed integrally with the shoe and on an outer surface of the lateral sidewall, the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the sole above the bottom surface of the bottom component, and the lateral support bumpers being positioned on the shoe and of sufficient dimensions to reduce or prevent ankle inversion stresses of a foot within the shoe.

Claim 14. (withdrawn) The athletic shoe of claim 13, wherein one of lateral bumper supports is disposed in a region where the head of the 5th metatarsal of a foot within the shoe would be located, and a second of the lateral support bumpers is disposed adjacent to the anterior heel, the lateral support bumpers each having a base portion which projects laterally outward from the shoe at a distance of approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Claim 15. (withdrawn) The athletic shoe of claim 14, wherein there are two lateral support bumpers; and wherein the base portion of each lateral support bumper is $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inches across and ~~extend~~ extends $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inches above the lower surface of the sole.

Claim 16. (withdrawn) The athletic shoe of claim 15, wherein the base portion of each lateral support bumper projects laterally outward from the shoe at a distance of $\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

Claim 17. (withdrawn) The athletic shoe of claim 16, wherein the base portion of each lateral support bumper projects laterally outward from the shoe at a distance of $\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Claims 18 to 20. (canceled).

Claim 21. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 1, further comprising at least two lateral support bumpers disposed integrally with the shoe and on an outer surface of the lateral sidewall, the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the sole above the bottom surface of the bottom component, and one of the lateral support bumpers being disposed in a region where the head of the 5th metatarsal of a foot within the shoe would be located, and a second of the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the anterior heel, the lateral support bumpers each having a base portion which projects laterally outward from the shoe at a distance of approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Claim 22. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 1, wherein each of the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall has a sufficiently stiff consistency to reduce or prevent acute angles that form during inversion stresses to a foot within the shoe.

Claim 23. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 21, wherein each of the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall has a sufficiently stiff consistency to reduce or prevent acute angles that form during inversion stresses to a foot within the shoe.

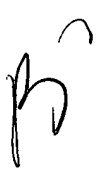
Claim 24. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 2, wherein at least one of the first fastening device and the second fastening device is a buckle.

Claim 25. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 2, wherein the first elongate strap is $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide.

Claim 26. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 2, wherein the first elongate strap is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide.

Claim 27. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 2, wherein the second elongate strap is $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and is 9 to 11 inches long.

Claim 28. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 27, wherein the second elongate strap is made of a material selected from the group consisting of nylon, rubber and a latex material.

 **Claim 29. (new)** The athletic shoe of claim 27, further comprising at least two lateral support bumpers disposed integrally with the shoe and on an outer surface of the lateral sidewall, the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the sole above the bottom surface of the bottom component, and one of the lateral support bumpers being disposed in a region where the head of the 5th metatarsal of a foot within the shoe would be located, and a second of the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the anterior heel, the lateral support bumpers each having a base portion which projects laterally outward from the shoe at a distance of approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Claim 30. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 2, wherein each of the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall has a sufficiently stiff consistency to reduce or prevent acute angles that form during inversion stresses to a foot within the shoe.

Claim 31. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 29, wherein each of the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall has a sufficiently stiff consistency to reduce or prevent acute angles that form during inversion stresses to a foot within the shoe.

Claim 32. (new) An athletic shoe comprising:

a bottom component having a top surface and a bottom surface, the bottom component including a sole having an upper surface and a lower surface;

an upper component extending from the top surface of the bottom component for accommodating a foot therein, the upper component having a medial sidewall, a lateral sidewall, and a back portion between the medial sidewall and the lateral sidewall; and

two elongate straps, one end of each of the two elongate straps being intimately secured to an inner surface of the shoe,

the two elongate straps contact a foot within the shoe, the two elongate straps support the ankle mortise and support the lateral calcaneofibular and anterior talofibular ligaments of a foot within the shoe such that the two elongate straps cross the anterior talofibular ligament, the two elongate straps each having a free end which is detachably securable to each other and an outer surface of the shoe and being tightenable to reduce or prevent ankle inversion stresses of a foot within the shoe.

Claim 33. (new) The athletic shoe of claim 32, further comprising at least two lateral support bumpers disposed integrally with the shoe and on an outer surface of the lateral sidewall, the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the sole above the bottom surface of the bottom component, and one of the lateral support bumpers being disposed in a region where the head of the 5th metatarsal of a foot within the shoe would be located, and a second of the lateral support bumpers being disposed adjacent to the anterior heel, the lateral support bumpers each having a base portion which projects laterally outward from the shoe at a distance of approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inches.
